

10/008331

ABSTRACT

A distributed resource metering system provides a billing component on a billing client, a billing server, and at least one database. The distributed resource metering system provides billing data in substantially real time. The billing client and the billing server are linked to a network, such as the Internet. The billing server authorizes the billing client to access a service. The billing client communicates with a gateway or another billing client. The billing server monitors the communication and provides substantially real time billing data to a display on the billing client.